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*5'54*

PROGRAMME

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**MONDAY 3 MAY to SATURDAY 29 MAY, 1954 at 7.30 p.m.**



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 (PUCCINI)

**CECILIA**  
 (REFICE)

**THE FORCE OF DESTINY**  
 (VERDI)

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 (PUCCINI)

**LA TRAVIATA**  
 (VERDI)

**IL TROVATORE**  
 (VERDI)

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**GUEST ARTISTS:**

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## Society Theatre

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, MAY 3rd, 5th, 7th ; and  
MONDAY, MAY 10th, at 7.30 p.m.

## CECILIA

(LICINIO REFICE)

(By arrangement with G. RICORDI & CO., London)

First produced, Teatro Reale dell'Opera, Rome, February, 1934

Libretto : EMILIO MUCCI

### Dramatis Personae :

Cecilia (a Noble Lady).....	ISELLE FAVATI
Valeriano (her Spouse).....	TOMMASO FRASCATI
Tiburzio (his Brother).....	GIUSEPPE FORGIONE
An Old Blind Woman.....	PALMIRA VITALI MARINI
Bishop Urbano.....	PLINIO CLABASSI
Amachio (Prefect of Rome).....	ARTURO LA PORTA
A Freed Man.....	BRENDAN CAVANAGH
A Slave.....	SAM MOONEY
An Angel of God {	MAURA MOONEY (May 3, 7)
	MONICA CONDRON (May 5, 10)
Populace, Slaves, Soldiers, Beggars, Scoundrels and Celestial Creatures, etc.	

Conductor.....MONSIGNOR LICINIO REFICE

Producer : BRUNO NOFRI

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Rome

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O.P.E.R.A. Agency, Rome : Maestro Cardenio Botti, Director

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**CECILIA**

(LICINIO REFICE)

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY

Time : A.D. 170

Place : Rome

**PRELUDE**—An invisible angel announces the Sacred performance.

**EPISODE 1—THE ATRIUM OF THE PALACE OF THE VALERII**

The protestations at the rumour that Cecilia is a Christian are quelled by Tiburzio, and preparations continue for her marriage when Valerian enters and sings of her beauty. Cecilia arrives with friends and bridesmaids and is married in the pagan rite.

Later, repelled by Valerian's earthly words, she takes refuge at the foot of the altar to the Lares and entreats God to keep pure her body and soul. An angel appears in answer and Valerian draws back.

**EPISODE 2—A CHAPEL IN THE CATACOMBS OF THE PRETESTATO**

An old blind woman tells how in answer to her prayers, she dreamt that her son's terrible sufferings were relieved, and the Christians kneel and pray. Cecilia and Valerian appear and the latter reluctantly enters with his spouse and is antagonised when she prays with the Christians.

Bishop Urban arrives and announces the conversion of Paul in Damascus streets. The blind woman, entranced at the miracle of her son, sees with the assembly a vision of St. Paul. Dropping to his knees, Valerian is converted and baptised. An angel appears bearing garlands for the bride and groom.

**EPISODE 3—SOME TIME LATER.** Both Valerian and his brother have given their lives in the name of Christ.

**Scene 1—A HALL IN THE VALERIAN PALACE, CONVERTED INTO A TRIBUNAL**

Cecilia, sustained by Valerian's voice which she alone hears, repulses the efforts of Amachio to secure her allegiance to the pagan gods. Enraged by the lictors' cries, he condemns her to suffocation in the boiling calidarium. Courageously, she steps towards it and, despite the entreaties of her maidens, crosses the threshold.

**Scene 2—THE HYPOCAUST**

A shower of fresh dewy rose-petals from on high mitigate the heat from the flames and Cecilia sings in wondering joy. Amachio is consumed with rage and a soldier springs forward and strikes Cecilia to the ground with his sword. The falling petals cease as her enemies leave. Priests and Christians enter with Bishop Urban, to the joy of the dying Saint, who expires in an ecstasy. The calidarium is burst asunder and the sweet, immortal song of the Saint is heard as she is seen in the midst of cohorts of angels ablaze with golden light.

*After the Show visit . . .*

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Chairman, Patrons' Sub-Committee.....MR. JAMES J. O'CONNOR

Stage Manager.....MR. TOM DALY

Stage Electrician.....MR. HARRY MORRISON

### NEXT WEEK

MONDAY	10th	CECILIA As on May 3
TUESDAY	11th	IL TROVATORE Denise, Elliott, Dargavel, Johnston, Mooney Conductor : Doyle
WEDNESDAY	12th	TOSCA Boi, Cavanagh, Ciabassi, Gobbi, La Porta, Misciano Conductor : Morelli
THURSDAY	13th	IL TROVATORE Denise, Elliott, Dargavel, Powell, Mooney Conductor : Doyle
FRIDAY	14th	TOSCA As on May 12
SAT. EVG.	15th	IL TROVATORE As on May 11

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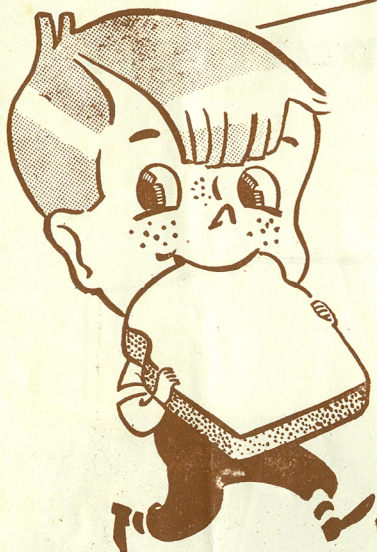
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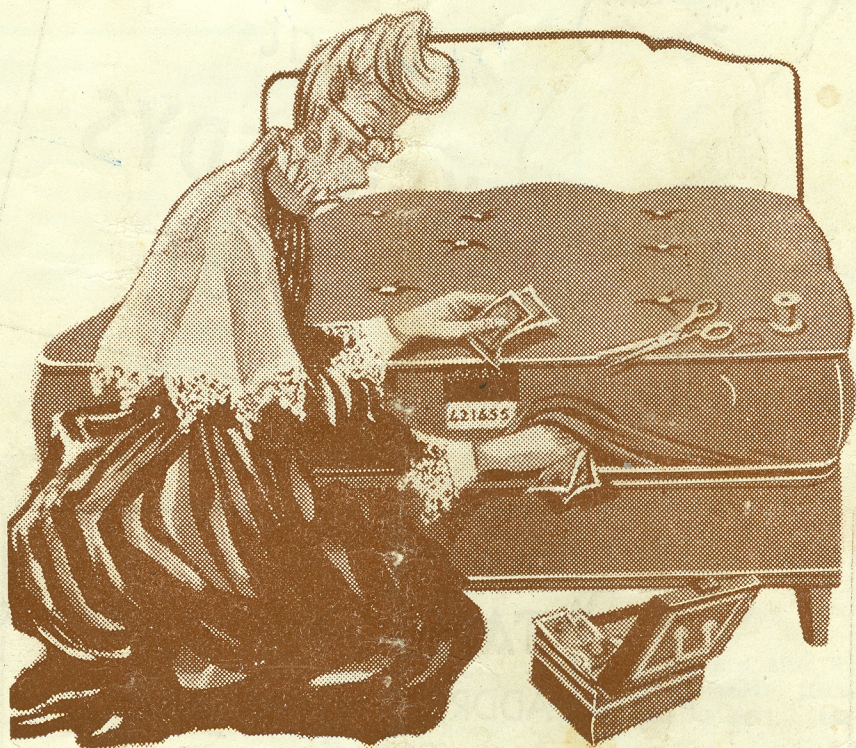
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